



Afternoon Alert - Monday, July 9, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks led with reports on the aftermath of the record rainfall mainly in western Japan, saying that search and rescue operations by the SDF and others is ongoing. According to NHK, the death toll has reached 112 and 78 remain missing as of 4 p.m. on Monday.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Abe cancels trip to Europe, Middle East

Jiji reported that Prime Minister Abe on Monday canceled his planned trip to Europe and the Middle East as the government is stepping up rescue operations following the devastating torrential rain in western Japan. The prime minister conveyed his decision to LDP Secretary General Nikai. Abe was scheduled to leave Japan on Wednesday for Brussels on the first leg of his trip and sign a free trade deal with the European Union. He was also expected to visit France, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt before returning on July 18.

- [Abe cancels trip to Europe, Middle East from Wed.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Top Chinese leaders shun ceremony commemorating start of Sino-Japanese War](#) (Yomiuri)
- [At least 20% of local assemblies pass written opinions urging Japan to sign nuclear ban treaty](#) (Asahi)
- [Komeito chief plans to visit China in September](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Vietnam's Agent Orange cleanup enlists Japanese tech](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## ECONOMY

- [U.S.-China trade war estimated to push Japan's GDP down by only 0.01%](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Analysts turn bearish on Tokyo stocks as trade fears persist](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [U.S.-China trade war jolts global industry](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [NATO secretary general calls for preventing trade war from impacting alliance](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Commentary: Trade wars produce no victors](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: U.S., China should revoke sanctions, engage in dialogue to alleviate friction](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japanese automakers agonize over how to handle possible tariff increases](#) (Mainichi)
- [EU to avoid friction with U.S. over autos, Japan mulls measures](#) (Yomiuri)
- [SoftBank expands Vision Fund solar investment to Africa](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SECURITY

- [Defense-related expenses likely to reach new high next fiscal year](#) (Mainichi)
- [Behind the Scenes / Prepare for Senkaku gray zone scenario](#) (The Japan News)
- [ROK alone enough to repel N. Korean troops](#) (AERA)
- [FEATURE: Japan, EU strengthen cybersecurity cooperation ahead of Olympics](#) (Kyodo News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 6, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on July 7, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Upper house starts debate on casino bill](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Shoko Asahara](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## OPINION POLLS

### Public approval for Abe cabinet rises

TBS reported at noon on the results of its opinion survey conducted over the weekend, which showed that public support for the Abe cabinet rose 4.1 points from last month to 43.1%, while nonsupport dropped 3.3 points to 55.8%. Concerning North Korea, 5% of respondents said North Korea's complete denuclearization can be realized following the Singapore summit, while 89% said it cannot. Meanwhile, public support for the LDP was 29.8%, down a point, followed by the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan at 8%, down 2.7 points, and the Japan Communist Party at 3.2%, down 0.8 points.

## SCIENCE

### Blue Planet – Part 3: Seashores

Saturday's "NHK Special" aired the third part of its series "Blue Planet," focusing on life along seashores. The program showed such things as how seals elude killer whales and how seabirds living in cliffs raise their young.

- [Astroscale gears up for space junk retrieval mission](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SOCIETY

### Death-row inmates talk about AUM

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on the recent execution of death-row inmate Chizuo Matsumoto, known as Shoko Asahara, the founder of AUM Shinrikyo, and six other senior cult members. The program said while Asahara kept silent about the various crimes the cult committed, it obtained

records of Asahara's remarks to his lawyer. The program showed that Asahara tried to blame everything on his disciples and never apologized or expressed remorse, while senior cult members expressed remorse and said they acted on the instruction of their guru.

- [Japan works toward introduction of new quake probability scale](#) (Kyodo News)

